



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## Incidental Take Notice for Walworth County

**MADISON, Wis.** — The proposed Army Lake boat launch improvement project may result in the "incidental taking" of a rare plant and frog under an authorization the Department of Natural Resources proposes to issue for the project. Incidental take refers to the unintentional losses of individual endangered or threatened animals or plants that do not put the overall population of the species at risk.

The Department of Natural Resources proposes to create a paved motorboat access site on Army Lake in Walworth County. The project includes the building of a concrete motor boat ramp, concrete pier interface, installation of a 40-foot boarding pier and resurfacing of the existing parking area and entrance roadway. It also includes the paving of a turnaround area near the boat ramp, ADA accessible parking stall and the quarter-mile-long roadway and approach prior to the boat ramp.

The presence of the state-threatened forked aster (*Eurybia furcata*) and state-endangered Blanchard's cricket frog (*Acris blanchardi*) have been confirmed in the vicinity of the project site. DNR staff determined that the proposed project may result in the incidental taking of some asters and frogs.

Department staff concluded that the proposed project would minimize the impacts to the species by adhering to conservation measures; is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence and recovery of the state population of the species or the whole plant-animal community of which they are a part; and has benefit to the public health, safety or welfare that justifies the action.

The conservation measures to minimize the adverse effect on the endangered and threatened species will be incorporated into the proposed Incidental Take Authorization. Copies of the jeopardy assessment and background information on the forked aster and Blanchard's cricket frog are available by visiting the [DNR website](http://dnr.wi.gov) and searching [incidental take public notice](#) or upon request from Rori Paloski (608-264-6040 or [rori.paloski@wi.gov](mailto:rori.paloski@wi.gov)). The department is requesting comments from the public through noon on Nov. 4, 2019 regarding project-related impacts to the wood turtle. Public comments should be sent to Rori Paloski, Wisconsin DNR, PO Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707-7921 or [rori.paloski@wi.gov](mailto:rori.paloski@wi.gov).

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